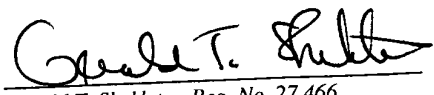


PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application  
Applicant: KOHL et al.  
Serial No.: 10/517,265 ✓  
Filed: December 2, 2004  
For: **OBJECTIVE, IN PARTICULAR  
PROJECTION OBJECTIVE FOR  
MICROLITHOGRAPHY**

)  
) I hereby certify that this correspondence is  
) being deposited with the United Postal  
) Service as first class mail in an envelope  
) addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT,  
) Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450,  
) Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on June 21,  
) 2005  
)  
)   
) Gerald T. Shekleton Reg. No. 27,466  
)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, a list of documents is disclosed on the attached Form PTO-1449 that may be material to the examination of this application. The listed Documents are enclosed herewith.

No inferences should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any material disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. In addition, none of the documents that have publication dates prior to the priority date of the above application anticipate the invention in this application.

No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

The cited document(s) disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to list each

Serial No.: 10/517,265

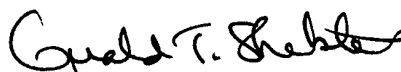
and every feature disclosed by each document. The Examiner is requested to review the document(s) and determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures with respect to the present invention.

The discussion of any art and the citation of any document(s) herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and document(s) recited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application. The recitation herein of the art and document(s) is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

Respectfully submitted,

**WELSH & KATZ, LTD.**



Gerald T. Shekleton  
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Dated: June 21, 2005

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